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1888-02-06

## Letter from John Mackay to James D. Butler, 1888 Feb 6.

John Mackay

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120 Brattle Street  
Cambridge Mass

Feb. 6. 1888.

Dear Sir

A couple of days ago I sent a communication to "Notes & Queries" under the heading of your query Convicts shipped to the Colonies. My communication referred to a lot of Scottish prisoners deported to Boston from London, in 1651, presumably by order of the English government.

On looking over "N & Q" to-day I find your address appended to one of your "replies". I have several times received friendly communications direct, from contributors to that valuable periodical, and as you express a desire to have the names of any prisoners sent to New England, I now beg to hand you the list of Scottish prisoners in the hope that it will prove of interest. The original entry (copied from the Ship's Papers) is in the Archives in the Probate Court for the County of Suffolk, Mass. The list, I may add has been printed and can be seen in the 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. of the New England Historical & Genealogical Register (Boston 1847), and in the Suffolk Register

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of Deeds. Liber I (Boston 1880). I have compared the printed list with the original entry and can vouch for its correctness, having only a difference of opinions as to a few letters in the spelling of some of the names. The blanks show where the paper is worn or the words illegible.

I am in the United States merely on a visit from Scotland, but passing the winter in Cambridge, and being so near to Boston, have been hunting for records regarding early Scottish settlers in New England. It was in this search that I came across the list of Scottish prisoners.

I may mention that the Scots Charitable Society of Boston is the oldest benevolent institution in the U. S. It was founded in 1657, is still flourishing, and its Books are intact from the beginning.

Pray let me know if you receive this, and believe me,

Yours faithfully  
John Mackay

James D. Butler Esq